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For Immediate Release:  
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## **Maryland State Board of Victim Services to Hold Governor's Victim Assistance Awards Luncheon**

The men and women who have gone above and beyond the call of duty to provide services and support to Maryland's victims of crime will be honored at the annual Governor's Victim Assistance Awards Luncheon, to be held in Annapolis next month. This annual event, held by the Maryland State Board of Victim Services, will highlight individuals and agencies in both the public and private sector for their outstanding work in victim advocacy and services during the 2014 calendar year.

**DATE:** May 8, 2015  
**TIME:** 11:30 am – 2:30 pm  
**WHERE:** DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Annapolis  
210 Holiday Court  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Among the awardees in this year's luncheon are the crisis responders, mental health professionals, law enforcement professionals and others who responded to the chaotic and devastating events that occurred on January 25, 2014, when a lone gunman entered the Columbia Mall in Howard County and opened fire. Two innocent young people were killed, and the sense of normalcy, peace and security was stolen from hundreds more.

Twenty-four individuals from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center, Inc., the American Red Cross, and the Howard County Mental Health Authority will receive a group award for their work helping the community members who were, and continue to be impacted by that horrific day. In addition, the Howard County Police Department will receive an award for its outstanding efforts to contain the event, ensure the safety of people in the building and provide comfort and assistance to store owners, shoppers and visitors. Two Howard County Police Department officers will receive a separate group award for their outstanding efforts during the crisis. Sherry Llewellyn, the Director of Public Affairs for the Howard County Police Department, and Kathleen Masterson of the Department's Victim Assistance Section will also receive individual awards for their outstanding efforts to inform the community during the event, and to assist its victims.

The luncheon is held each year to show appreciation and recognition to an individual, agency, organization or group that does meritorious work on behalf of crime victims or in furtherance of the crime victims' movement in Maryland.

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